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Rome July 22. 1824

My dear Maria

I so glad you all, have comes home safe
good news. I believe I have got a commission to paint
6 pictures from one of Walter Scotts Novels. Quentin
Durward" this pleasant task comes from Lady West
=morland. — Is it not like the blessing of God upon me
for I was yesterday taking the last money of my pension
and should have been forced to pawn my watch
a year next Winter. — Now I shall finish with the
next certainty as well as pleasure my darling Painting
it is not not gratifying. that these pictures are
all quite in my own taste — just what I have
been wishing to be the result of all my difficult
studies and vicissitudes —

I have just got into a most convenient
and beautiful house, a little I pay for the same
as the last. It is the driest place in Rome for
invalids above all it is healthy in the Air —

So you see by the help of Hope it has broke more

like a long stay in Italy for me. I shall come
to England and see you all at the first opportunity
I hope next Summer — but it must depend on some
kind Soul offering me a place in a passage. or I'll
never be able to stand the expence — it will cost 80£
— I move and move think that the advantages are
greater for me here than they would be in England —
who I should have made a name — and got my
works before the Public I can return with eclat
for I am determined not return without the honor
of attracting great attention by my Works — and with
a host of noble friends to support me — — — —

I think you will be delighted to know —
although you did not say so — that all my love —
affair is at an end. — and I know you are delighted
to hear this — for you have feared to lose me
altogether — This good result of mine has given
my independance back again. and so I have
determined to live single — and be little understood
by every one that I know not of" Just today

I depart from Rome with these two fair Ladies and their Mama - we have taken a house at Arricia about 15 miles from Rome - so you say "Ah! Tom Joseph take care of your heart - I fear you have too far lost it to call it your own, even now" - dont be afraid I am getting old and crafty as to my interests - and now every thing goes to that tune - as I see that I am really likely to gain both fame and fortune - You must know that my Vintage - Odare takes me into the country and these Ladies wish to paint me very much in order to complete their collection and be painted with it - Miss Davis will take with her a Forte. and a great quantity of Books - what do you think of it - I have made the agreement for us all to come - lodging, board and every thing - at 2 & 2 for the whole - think of that - and it a beautiful house ——
- How I should like my dear Father with me during this Vintage - what a scene it would be for him - it is impossible for you to imagine it - but you'll see my picture - it will have 15 figures in it - and a most extensive Landscape - with the Vines festooned from tree to tree — when I have done this I begin my large picture from Raphael's School of Athens - 38 feet long

I have always intended this for the last — for there ate
my hopes lie — I shall make an Exhibition of it first —
The least "part began — ah what a "dreary nite" yet
in the country it is possible to escape a little — my health
is excellent, I suppose owing to my spirits — I can

Miss Mary Sparrow
Care of Messrs Coutts & Co
Strand
London

Legislature

Free
Oct 25
1855

This is Fanny's — and I assure you she has
been ate, and the cake all gone — kitties
in my bears with the Exception of
Bye Bye

remember to remain love — because I know not ate you
dreadful about me is an end — I must come over and see my
Father and Mother and ate your dear faces — O how shall
I ever get back again — so good bye — now that I am
fortunate and as longer a grief to you all — I seem to
feel you ate little dearer and dearer to me — good bye
love & many kisses — always & ever pray to remain a little